

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the application as presently amended and in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1, 4 and 6, 7 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

By way of summary, Claims 4, 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Takemasa et al. (JP2000-090539-A; hereinafter Takemasa). Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kasuga (JP2003-115152 A) in view of Takemasa.

Turning first to the rejection of Claims 4, 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Applicants have amended the dependency of Claim 4 to provide antecedent basis for “said arcuate section.” In addition, Claim 6 has been amended to recite an optical disc to provide antecedent basis for “said optical disc.” Accordingly, Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Turning next to the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Takemasa and the rejection of Claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kasuga in view of Takemasa, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to recite “an annular loading support part configured to position said disc cartridge in the horizontal direction and in the height-wise direction, said loading support part having a fitting protrusion at an inner periphery, fitted in said opening for a driving unit of said disc cartridge.”

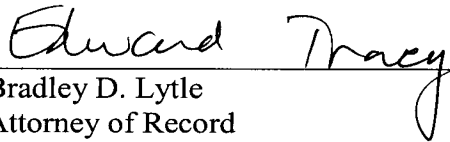
Applicants direct attention to Applicants’ Figure 13 which shows cartridge support part 93, inner peripheral surface 81, mounting reference surface 82, loading support 82 and center fitting protrusion 92. Accordingly, no new matter has been added to the claims.

In addition, neither of the art cited against the claims, in either of the rejections, shows these features. Moreover, Claim 6 has been amended to recite that the loading support part is annular and that the loading support part has a fitting protrusion at an inner periphery of the loading support part which is fitted in said opening for a driving unit of said disc cartridge, with said loading support part having a support part at an outer periphery, carrying the peripheral edge of said opening for the driving unit of said disc cartridge. These features are also not taught or suggested by either of the references relied upon in the Official Action.

From all of the above, that Claims 1-7 are now believed to be in condition for allowance. An early indication to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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